

**In the Claims:**

1. (currently amended)      A shoe protective device comprising a main body composed of a flexible material, an opening in said main body of sufficient size to receive the heel portion of a shoe, a ridge member disposed horizontally on said main body rearward and adjacent said opening, ~~and~~ an elastic hem member affixed to the perimeter of said opening, and a generally planar bottom member joined to said main body wherein said elastic hem member enables said opening to be stretched over the heel portion of such shoe and released to temporarily retain said device on such shoe.

2. (original)      The device of claim 1, wherein said flexible material is elastic.

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (original)      The device of claim 1, further comprising reinforcing members affixed to said main body.

6. (currently amended)      The device of claim 1 ~~[[4]]~~, further comprising reinforcing members affixed to said bottom member.

7. (original) The device of claim 2, wherein said flexible, elastic material is an expanded polymer foam.

8. (currently amended) The device of claim 1, further comprising a high heel aperture disposed in said bottom member ~~main body~~, wherein said high heel aperture allows the heel of such shoe to extend therethrough.

9. (currently amended) A shoe heel protective guard device comprising:  
a main body composed of a flexible, elastic material;  
a generally planar bottom member joined to said main body;  
an opening disposed in said main body;  
a high heel aperture disposed in said bottom member;  
and an elastic hem member affixed to the perimeter of said opening;  
wherein said elastic hem member retains said device on a shoe;  
and wherein said high heel aperture is sized such that a flat heel is retained entirely within  
said main body and said bottom member, whereas a high heel extends through said opening.

10. (original) The device of claim 9, wherein the combination of said main body and said bottom member forms a pyramidal shape.

11. (currently amended) The device of claim 10, further comprising a horizontally  
disposed ridge ~~an apex~~ member disposed on said main body adjacent said opening.

12. (original) The device of claim 9, further comprising a reinforcing member affixed to said bottom member.

13. (original) The device of claim 9, further comprising a reinforcing member affixed to said main body.

14. (canceled)

15. The device of claim 9, wherein said flexible, elastic material is an expanded polymer foam.

16. (currently amended) A shoe heel protective device comprising:  
a main body composed of a flexible, elastic material, said main body having a forward portion;  
a generally planar bottom member joined to said main body, said bottom member having a linear forward edge and a rounded rear edge;  
an opening disposed in said forward portion of said main body, wherein said opening receives the heel and rear portion of a shoe;  
an elastic hem member affixed to the perimeter of said opening, wherein said elastic hem member retains said main body and said bottom member on such shoe; and  
a high heel aperture disposed in said bottom member.

17. (canceled)

18. (original) The device of claim 16, further comprising a reinforcing member affixed to said bottom member.

19. (original) The device of claim 16, further comprising a reinforcing member affixed to said main body.

20. (original) The device of claim 16, wherein said flexible, elastic material is an expanded polymer foam.

21. (new) The device of claim 6, wherein said reinforcing member is composed of a non-elastic material.

22. (new) The device of claim 6, wherein said reinforcing member is a reinforcing member chosen from the group of reinforcing members consisting of pads, plates and strips.